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Name in the News

CPYRGHT Dr. Otto John

Dr. Otto John, 46, former security official in West Germany before he defected to the Communists six months ago, returned to the West this week.

He is son of a respectable civil service official . . . attended Marburg where he earned a law degree and the title of "doctor" . . . quite young when Hitler came into power . . . worked for legal department of Deutsche Luft Hansa, civil airline which trained Nazi Luftwaffe.

Dr. John was regarded as anti-Nazi but remained with airline after start of war . . . fled after taking part in July 20, 1944, abortive putsch against Hitler . . . escaped Germany by posing as crew member on Madrid-bound train . . . brother killed for role in putsch.

Dr. John was arrested in Madrid for drinking . . . advised Gestapo was trying to finish him off . . . escaped to Lisbon . . . from Lisbon went to London to work for British intelligence . . . placed in charge of BBC German-language broadcasts.

He was admitted to bar in England . . . helped interrogate top Nazi generals in preliminaries to war crimes hearings . . . married woman six years his senior in 1946.

He was appointed to top West German security post in 1950 . . . Federal Bureau



for Defense of the Constitution comparable to U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation . . . screened government officials and employees for Nazi or Communist taints . . . turned over security findings to Big Three western powers.

He visited United States . . . met with J. Edgar Hoover and Allen Dulles . . . fled to East Berlin on July 20 . . . defection caused considerable stir among western circles.

He is handsome, fastidious, always well-barbered and well-manicured . . . took great pride in fingernails . . . well-controlled, affable and quiet spoken.